



September 2023
Volume 1, Issue 4

The Space Coast Comet



GFWC Space Coast Woman's Club Inc.

Hunger Action Month

September is Hunger Action Month. "This year's campaign will highlight the impact of food on people's lives and show how a meal goes beyond solely nourishing our bodies. When people are fed, futures are nourished, and individuals go from just living to truly thriving. By joining the movement, Feeding America believes our collective voices, actions and commitment will help ensure every community has the food it needs to flourish.

"Food has a tremendous impact on people's lives. We have all experienced firsthand how a meal goes beyond solely nourishing our bodies," said Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, CEO of Feeding America. "Access to nutritious food is essential for each of us to reach our full potential and reminds us that we can all help to create positive change in our communities to ensure that no one goes hungry in America. Now is the time for us to come together to elevate the voices of people who experience food insecurity and inspire everyone to join the movement to end hunger."

[Feeding America](#) estimates approximately 1 in 6 people turned to charitable food assistance for additional support in 2022. A recent Feeding America survey found that 80% of network food banks reported either increased or steady demand for emergency food services in June 2023. This includes almost 35% of responding food banks reporting an increase in the number of people served."

What *we're* doing to help...This month we will focus on the organizations in our area that are addressing food insecurity and will culminate on September 30th, with our participation in the first GFWC Day of Service with a food drive at the Viera Walmart. Watch for more information in the coming weeks.

GFWC FL President's Project Camp Boggy Creek

There are a few projects that can be done to show our support for the GFWC FL President's Project: knitting or crocheting blankets and sewing "Boggy Bears" for the campers and sewing curtains for the cabins at Camp Boggy Creek. If you would like information on these projects, please contact [President Sarah](#).

Get started today knitting or crocheting blankets using your own yarn and patterns. Finished afghans should be 35-40 inches wide by 40-50 inches long and in "kid-friendly" colors and patterns. Completed afghans can be brought to our club meetings for delivery to GFWC FL.

Membership Meeting

Our next General Membership Meeting will be on **September 6, 2023 at 10:00**. We will be meeting at The Children's Hunger Project located at **26 Forrest Avenue in Cocoa**.

Join us to learn about the mission of The Children's Hunger Project and the Central Brevard Sharing Center and the actions they are taking to address food insecurity in Brevard County.

For more information or to find out how you can join our club, please contact us.



President's Message

September is here and fall is right around the corner. For those of you who don't know, I live in New Mexico. We're in the "high desert" and at a mile-high, we experience all four seasons. After a summer of very hot temperatures, we're looking forward to cool temperatures and roasting chile peppers—two signs that fall is here! Fall also brings the GFWC Florida Board of Director's Meeting in Orlando. I'll be travelling home to Florida to attend and I hope you're making your plans to join us for great times, good friends, and informative workshops. I can't wait to see you there!

This is also the month for the first GFWC National Day of Service on September 30th. We'll be participating in raising awareness of food insecurity and hunger in our area with a food drive to benefit two organizations that are near and dear to my heart: The Children's Hunger Project and the Central Brevard Sharing Center. I've worked closely with both organizations in the past and they do incredible work in service to our community. I hope you'll support our food drive and make our first Day of Service a success!

As we focus on food insecurity this month, I hope you'll share the information with your friends, family, and neighbors. Many in our community are just one catastrophe away from needing help with putting food on the table. Hunger doesn't discriminate and the fight to end hunger doesn't take a vacation. It requires everyone to work toward the goal of making sure that food is accessible, affordable, and plentiful for everyone.

~Sarah Anthony

"Food is national security. Food is economy. It is employment, energy, history. Food is everything."

~Chef José Andrés



1st Vice-President's Message

Our first GFWC Day of Service will be on September 30th. We will be at the Viera Walmart from 8:00-12:00 collecting food donations for The Children's Hunger Project and

the Central Brevard Sharing Center. We will need many volunteers for this event. I will have a signup sheet at the September meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please email me if you would like to volunteer! It will be a fun event and we look forward to seeing you.

Please continue to report your volunteer hours and monetary and in-kind donations to me each month. You can report hours by email. These hours and dollars are reported to GFWC FL and are a way to quantify all the great contributions our members give to our community. Please round up your hours. Did you know you can also include your time and mileage (again, round up) when driving to your volunteer service and when you're on official club business? Don't forget to add an hour for saving pull-tabs for the

Ronald McDonald House (1 hour) and for donating eyeglasses for the Lyon's Club (1 hour). Be sure to keep track of hours you read if you are a member of the book club and the cost for your GFWC Fall Board registration. Did you support a fundraiser for a sister-GFWC club or a club charity? Report it! You'll be surprised how quickly this time adds up.

~JoAnne Post



National Day of Service

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Living the Volunteer Spirit

www.GFWC.org

#GFWC23NDS

Community Service Programs (CSPs)

Arts & Culture CSP

Chair: Available

Have you completed your entry for the GFWC Arts & Crafts Contest? Our club's Art Show will be held at our January 2024 General Membership Meeting and the winners in each category will move on to the District 6 Arts & Crafts Show at the District meeting in February. We encourage all of our members to tap into their creative side and enter a project in one of the [many categories](#). Check out the [handbook](#) from GFWC FL for all the rules. Note: Entries must have been completed in 2023.

For more information, please contact President Sarah.

Civic Engagement & Outreach CSP

Chair: Available

The GFWC Civic Engagement and Outreach CSP reminds members that each of us is a part of a larger society and is responsible for undertaking actions that will create a better quality of life and foster a sense of community. Volunteering is one of the best ways to put civic duty into action and it is the first step in building a stronger connection to community, but there are other ways to contribute, such as advocating, fundraising or donating, and problem solving. Civic Engagement and Outreach are highlighted and encouraged, including citizenship; crime prevention, safety, and disaster preparedness; the needy, hungry, and homeless; and our military personnel and veterans.



GFWC Signature Program: Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness & Prevention

Chair: Taylor Malishenko

Our Club supports Serene Harbor, which is our local Certified Domestic Violence Center. They have several upcoming fundraising events. You can find full details at their website SereneHarbor.org Upcoming events are:

PURSES with a PURPOSE Luncheon 2023: October 11 from 10:30 AM - 2:00 PM at the Space Coast Convention Center. It is an event for networking, shopping and advocacy. You may purchase tickets online or [email Coral Perez](mailto:Coral.Perez). Cost is \$55. Don't wait as tables are filling up.

Several of our members have purchase individual tickets. If you do, send me a note (taylorph44@gmail.com) so I can arrange for us to sit together.

[Chipping In to End Domestic Violence Golf Tournament](#), Saturday, November 4th at Duran Golf Club. Cost is \$100.



Community Service Programs (CSPs)



Education & Libraries CSP

Chair: Sally Kramer

Beyond the Library Walls: Building Communities with Bookmobiles

By Sandy Hauenstein, GFWC Education & Libraries Chairman

Library outreach exists in many forms: programming, representing the library at community events, serving senior facilities and home-bound patrons, collaborating with schools, day-care centers, other community organizations, and last but not least, operating outreach vehicles such as bookmobiles, passenger vans and book bikes to reach patrons who are unable to or don't have convenient access to the library.

For over one hundred years bookmobiles have served rural, urban, suburban and tribal areas, bringing access to information and life-long learning resources to all classes and communities. During the late 1800s, women's clubs began advocating for Bookmobiles in the state of Texas and throughout the United States.

Horse riding librarians were the Great Depression's bookmobiles. They brought books to Kentuckians living in remote areas. The novels, "The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek" and "The Bookwoman's Daughter" talk about the challenges of traveling to deliver books in every season.

One of the earliest mobile libraries in the United States was a mule drawn wagon carrying wooden boxes of books. It was created in 1904 by the People's Free Library of Chester County, South Carolina and served the rural areas there.

Bookmobiles have expanded to magazines, LPs, CDs, DVDs games and every multimedia item that is found in a central branch. Now they are starting to provide patrons with technology itself.

Georgia Phillips Reading Room

Did you know that Rockledge has a reading and book lending program? The Georgia Phillips Reading and Book Lending Room located in the Rockledge Community Resource Center (123 Barton Blvd.) collects books, games, CDs, DVDs and puzzles. Books can be checked out for up to 21 days. There is no penalty for not returning books. A person can return the books they checked out or return different books.

This is another way for our club members to donate the books we no longer want so that others can read and enjoy them, and to help the people in our community that can't get to a regular library. This facility is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm.

Space Coast Woman's Club Book Club

Our club's Book Club will be meeting on the third Monday of every month at 1:00 pm. We will meet in members' homes, rotating around so everyone has a turn to host the meeting and lead the discussion on the book of the month. The hostess will provide simple snacks and drinks.

A list of books will be created for the whole year at the January meeting. Because we are just getting started, we will put a list together at the September meeting for the rest of 2023.

The first meeting will be September 18, 2023 at the home of Judy M. at 1:00 pm. See the club directory for her address. We will be discussing the book "Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride".

Our book club is open to all members of our club, so if you are interested I hope you will join us.

If you have any questions please email me at ckramer34@cfl.rr.com.

HAPPY READING!!



Community Service Programs (CSPs)



Environment CSP

Chair: Nancy Brown

Start collecting used corks (natural or synthetic) and bring them to any of our general meetings. The Cork Club funded by Widget Co. collect corks and donates .02 per natural cork and donates the money to forest and ocean conservation. They recycle the synthetic cork. I will share more information at our meeting in September.

In November, we will be having our meeting at Brevard Zoo. All the details will be in the October newsletter.



Health & Wellness CSP

Chair:
Linda Greenstein

Our Charity Miles team, GFWC Space Coast COMETS, worked hard to accumulate miles for the Fighting Blindness Foundation. The weather has hindered the number of miles but we'll reach well over 1,000 miles this month. Our Charity for September is FEEDING AMERICA. Let's see if we can walk, run or bike 1,400 miles and help the hunger crisis across our country.

Charity Miles is a phone app program in which corporate sponsors make monetary donations to various charities based on the number of miles that its members (like our club) walk, run, or bike. For more information, visit [their website!](#)

Our next Walk and Talk, will be on Monday, September 11 th . Meet us at Linear Park (at the end of Murrell Road, past the Zoo parking lots) at 8:30am. Wear sturdy walking shoes, use sunscreen, dress for the weather and bring some water. Hope to see many of you there. All members and guests are welcome to join us!

Please bring all the pull tabs you have been saving for the Ronald McDonald House and all of your unnecessary glasses or sunglasses for the Lions Recycle For Sight Program to our September membership meeting.

We will be supporting Healthy Start beginning this month. On September 26th from 9:00-11:00am we will be holding a "packet party" so we can help put together some of the 500 Community Connect Resource Packets that go out to pregnant clients each month. There will be a sign-up sheet at the September membership meeting for those who want to join us for this volunteer opportunity. If you are not planning to attend the meeting, please [email me](#) to sign up and to get more information. The location will be determined by the number of people that sign up.

September Environmental Tips:

I am trying to minimize the amount of plastic that I use. I use reusable grocery bags, recycle as much as I can and avoid using plastic bottles and containers. I am not always successful but I know that every little bit helps.

In my efforts to reduce my use of plastics I have found a couple of products:

Sheets laundry sheets are a liquid-less detergent (they look like dryer sheets) 50 sheets to a box. I order them through Amazon.

Dropps dishwasher detergent pods – these look just like other detergent pods but the detergent is wrapped in a water soluble wrap rather than plastic.

Both products are packaged in recyclable boxes.

Have you found any products that help you reduce the amount of plastic you use? Drop me an email with those products so that I can share with our club members.

What We've Been Up To...

The Education CSP and Health and Wellness CSP held a "Back to School" Drive during the month of July. We chose three charities that were trying to help many of the children in Brevard County. [Grandparents Raising Grandchildren](#) and the [Friends of the Children of Brevard County](#) needed school supplies for the children they serve. [The Sharing Center of Central Brevard](#) needed new sneakers for their Kicks for Kids campaign.

We told our members, our friends, our neighbors and our communities about our drive and watched as the items poured into our homes. Thirty one days later we tallied all of those donated items and were able to donate **\$1,118.00** in school supplies and **\$775.00** in new sneakers. It was a very successful project and we are proud to help the children in our community start the school year with new supplies.



Thanks to a donation from a club member, GFWC Space Coast Woman's Club was able to make a donation of two emergency rope ladders for [Nana's House](#). Nana's House is a 501(c)(3) organization that provides local foster families, licensed by One More Child, with housing and wrap around support. They help provide families with housing, utilities, transportation, and resources for kids, as well as household goods, children's clothing, toys, school supplies, diapers, and any other items that they may need.



Did you know...

We collect pull-tabs for the Ronald McDonald House Charities. One pound of pull-tabs (like from soda cans) is about 1,300 tabs.

10 lbs. of tabs = laundry soap for 3 days
50 lbs. of tabs = warm meal for a family
100 lbs. of tabs = one night stay for a family

Gallon milk jug = 3 lbs. of tabs
Large oatmeal container = 2 lbs. of tabs
Sandwich zip-top bag = 1/2 lbs. of tabs

GFWC Advancement Areas

Membership

Chair: Available

Legislation & Public Policy

Chair: Available

Welcome to our new club members:

Diane A.

Eileen A.

Judy M.

Kathy S.

Heidi W.

Laurie W.

And welcome to our Booster Club members:

Jeff A.

Robert B.

Robert G.

Bob P.

Members are the heart of our club! If you would like to volunteer with us, please visit our [website](#).

For more than 130 years, GFWC members have raised awareness of specific issues requiring attention at the national level through their advocacy efforts. GFWC members' advocacy efforts are practical not political. GFWC members worked to pass laws affecting highway safety, juvenile justice, women's suffrage, the rights of the disabled, equal pay for women, and increased resources for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. Our efforts can change lives! Our empathetic members use public advocacy to seek solutions to local, state, and national concerns. Our organization is strengthened by resolutions and advocacy which make a difference.

Sign up for the [Legislative Action Center](#), a powerful tool to alert you to GFWC's public issues and advocacy efforts.

Leadership Corner

Being a "leader" in our club doesn't mean you have to take on a big job or bite off more than you're comfortable with. Good leaders can simply participate.

Here are SEVEN acts of 'everyday leaders': commit, listen, communicate, be humble, innovate, learn, and SMILE! (From the GFWC 2022-24 Manual)

Watch for more on these SEVEN acts in future newsletters.





GFWC History

Mrs. Carolyn Lawrence Pearce was the first GFWC International President to hail from Florida. She served as GFWC President from 1966 to 1968

with great support from her family. As stated in the Miami Herald, "When local, district and state federations endorsed her for the GFWC presidency at the 1965 Florida Federation convention, a surprise telegram made it unanimous: "We would like to lovingly cast unanimous endorsement for our favorite candidate, Carolyn Pearce...Dick, Marilyn, and Frank Pearce."

"Carolyn Pearce was born in Georgia and studied for two years at the University of Georgia before getting married. In 1926 Mrs. Pearce moved to Miami, Florida with her husband and son where she became a member, and eventually President, of the Miami Woman's Club. Over the next several years, she became director of District 11; vice-president of the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs; and, in 1954, state president of the Florida Federation. Impressively, in 1954 Carolyn also received her B.A. in English from the University of Miami.

In 1958 Mrs. Pearce began her work at GFWC, serving as chairman of the Western Hemisphere Division of the International Relations Department, and of the American Home Department and Garden Division. She became GFWC recording secretary in 1960 and moved up in the ranks, becoming 26th International President of GFWC in 1966.

During her term, Carolyn Pearce's theme was "Build With Youth for a Better World." During her administration, Mrs. Pearce didn't ask clubs to focus on a national campaign or fundraising project but instead asked clubs to "walk hand in hand with youth for community betterment through community service." One of the ways Mrs. Pearce promoted this was through membership. Under her administration GFWC formally organized the Junioresettes.

Carolyn Pearce's administration, and her subsequent scrapbooks, also embraced travel, as she visited clubs all over the world. In 1967, she

led an Adventure Tour of the Pacific where she stopped in Sydney, Australia. In Australia, Pearce planned a conference for Australian clubwomen and all of the tour participants. Carolyn also visited Germany to mark the 20th anniversary of the Marshall Plan. She was one of only nine people from the United States invited to make the trip.

Carolyn Pearce's scrapbooks detail her experience throughout her 1966-68 administration. They are comprised of personal pictures, magazine and newspaper articles, invitations, memos, and correspondence, including presidential and royal correspondence." (GFWC Women's History and Resource Center)

You can view Mrs. Pearce's scrapbook as well as many other artifacts from her presidency at the [GFWC Women's History and Resource Center](#).



September Events

September 6:

10:00 am—General Membership Meeting
The Children's Hunger Project
26 Forrest Ave., Cocoa

September 11:

8:30 am—Walk & Talk
Linear Park
South end of Murrell Rd., past
the zoo

September 18:

1:00 pm—Book Club Meeting
Judy M's house
See directory for address

September 20:

10:00 am— Board of Directors Meeting
JoAnne's house
See directory for address

September 21:

10:00 am—New Member Orientation
Sally K's house
See directory for address

September 22-24:

GFWC FL Fall Board of Directors Meeting
Rosen Plaza, Orlando

September 26:

9:00 am—Healthy Start Packet Party
Location TBD

September 30:

8:00 am —GFWC National Day of Service
Viera Walmart

*We look forward to seeing you
at one of our many activities this
month!*

What We're Collecting

This is a list of on-going collections for items that will be donated to various organizations in our area.

- **Pull-tabs** (soda & soup can tabs) - will be donated to Ronald McDonald House charities. (Health & Wellness)
- **Eyeglasses** - will be donated to the Lions Club. (Health & Wellness)
- **Bottle corks** (wine & champagne) — will be sent to Widget Co. (The Cork Club) for recycling. (Environment)

More items will be added as projects are developed. To donate, please **contact our club.**

Contact Us!

Email: gfwcspacecoast@gmail.com

Phone: 321-4468941

Website: gfwcspacecoastwc.org

Facebook: facebook.com/gfwcspacecoastwc

